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Amended Claims - Clean Copy

1. A test animal useful in an animal model system for atherosclerosis, wherein the test animal is a non-human mammal susceptible to the induction of atherosclerosis which carries a vessel-restricting device applied to at least one of its blood vessels.

a' 2. A test animal according to claim 1, wherein said vessel-restricting device comprises a cuff or ring placed around part of a blood vessel of the animal.

3. (amended) A test animal according to claim 1, wherein said vessel-restricting device is made of a plastic material, such as polyethylene.

4. (amended) A test animal according to claim 1, wherein said animal is selected from the group consisting of monkey, pig, cow, sheep, goat, dog, horse, rabbit, hamster, Guinea pig, rat and mouse, preferably is a rodent, most preferably mouse.

5. A test animal according to claim 4, wherein said animal is a transgenic mouse with a disorder promoting its susceptibility to atherosclerosis, more particularly a disorder

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in its lipid metabolism promoting its susceptibility to atherosclerosis.

6. A test animal according to claim 5, wherein said transgenic mouse is selected from the group consisting of ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>, LDL-R<sup>-/-</sup> and ApoE3 mice.

a' 10045138.05400  
7. (amended) A method for testing the atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect of a substance, diet or treatment in an animal model system for atherosclerosis, comprising subjecting at test animal as defined in claim 1 to a test treatment with the substance, diet or treatment to be tested and analyzing the atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on the blood vessel restricted by the vessel-restricting device.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the vessel-restricting device is applied to the at least one blood vessel after the start but before the end of the test treatment.

9. (amended) A method according to claim 7, further comprising analyzing with the same animal, as a control, the

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atherosclerotic or anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on a blood vessel not restricted by the vessel-restricting device.

10. (amended) A method according to any claim 7, wherein said test treatment comprising administration to a test animal of a substance to be tested as anti-atherosclerotic agent together with an atherosclerosis-promoting diet, and wherein another test animal, fed with the same atherosclerosis-promoting diet but without the substance to be tested, is used as a control.

11. (amended) A method for screening substances, diets or treatments to identify one having an anti-atherosclerotic effect, comprising subjecting each of the substances, diets or treatments to be tested to a test in an animal model system for atherosclerosis in which a test animal as defined in claim 1 is subjected to a test treatment with the substance, diet or treatment to be tested and the anti-atherosclerotic effect, if any, on the blood vessel restricted by the vessel-restricting device is analyzed, and selecting a substance, diet or treatment having an anti-atherosclerotic effect.

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12. A method for accelerating the onset and/or development  
of atherosclerotic phenomena in a non-human mammalian test  
animal comprising applying a vessel-restricting device to at  
least one of its blood vessels.

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